

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00383 230713Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----230715Z 002044 /13
O R 230645Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0776
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRIU

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0383

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, EG
SUBJECT: FORD PROJECT

REF: CAIRO 8583

FOLLOWING IS FROM AMBASSADOR IN ALEXANDRIA:

1. WHEN DISCUSSING VARIOUS BOYCOTT MATTERS WITH FAHMY LAST NIGHT, HE ALLUDED TO WILLIAMS/GAZARINE AGREEMENT AND VWAIMED CREDIT FOR HAVING ARRANGED SIGNING. SUBSEQUENTLY, ACCORDING TO HIM, WILLIAMS YAD MET WITH KAISOUNI IN PARIS AND SIGNED ANOTHER AGREEMENT. THIS, HE SCOFFED, WAS UNNECESSARY SINCE HE HAD ALREADY ARRANGED GOE APPROVAL.

2. I TOLD FAHMY THAT WILLIAMS WAS GRATEFUL FOR HIS INTEREST AND HELP, BUT CORRECTED HIS IMPRESSION THAT A SECOND AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED WITH KAISOUNI. TATHER, WILLIAMS ALONE HAD SIGNED A DOCUMENT INDICATING FORD APPROVAL AS REQUIRED IN THE INITIAL AGREEMENT. FORD WAS STILL AWAITING FORMAL GOE APPROVAL OF THE WILLIAMS/GAZARINE AGREEMENT. A WEEK AGO OUROSOFF, LOCAL FORD REF, HAD BEEN ASSURED THIS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IN ONE WEEK. THE PREVIOUS EVENING, HOWEVER, I HAD LEARNED THAT MININDUSTRY SHAHIN HAD INTERPOSED SOME NEW CONDITIONS AND THAT THESE WERE BEING
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TELEXED TO DETROIT. THE WHOLE THING SEEMED REDICULOUS AND CERTAINLY POSED A POOR PICTURE OF EGYPTIAN RELIABILITY.

3. FAHMY WAS FURIOUS. HE TELEPHONED PRIMIN MAMDISH SALEM IN CAIRO TO PROTEST SHAHIN'S ACTION. WHEN GAZARINE SIGNED, FAHMY ARGUED, HE DID SO FOR GOE. SHAHIN AND ALL OTHER MINISTERS WERE BOUND TO RESPECT THIS. PRIMIN ACKNOWLEDGED SHAHIN HAD RAISED THE

TWO POINTS REPORTED CAIRO REFTEL, BUT INSISTED THERE WERE NOT CONDITIONS. FORD SHOULD SEND SOMEONE TO TALK TO SHAHIN ABOUT THE TWO POINTS. IF THEY ARE ACCEPTABLE, FINE; IF NOT, THIS WOULD ALSO BE ALLRIGHT. IN EITHER CASE, PRIMIN STATED, SHAHIN WOULD SIGN THE APPROVAL DOCUMENT.

4. FAHMY ASKED THAT I CONVEY ABOVE TO WILLIAMS WITH ASSURANCE THAT IF SHAHIN PROVES DIFFICULT, HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF HIM.

5. COMMENT: I HAVE IMPRESSION QUERY SENT OR BEING SENT TO WILLIAMS SOLELY TO HUMOR SHAHIN. GOE, INCLUDING PRIMIN AND FAHMY, INDICATED READINESS APPROVE WILLIAMS/GAZARINE AGREEMENT WHETHER OR NOT FORD ACCEPTS SHAHIN'S TWO POINTS. PLEASE CONVEY ABOVE TO WILLIAMS AS SUPPLEMENT TO REFTEL.
CHASE

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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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